



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

5720  
ARSF-F1  
October 26, 2012

MR JASON SMATHERS  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPT MR 1320 P O BOX 55819  
BOSTON MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Smathers:

SUBJECT: FILE NUMBER USMC-HQ 201100246

This refers to your February 28, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, by which you seek the most recent quarterly briefing on the Garrison Network Transition and Realignment status from C4 and Systems Command provided to MROC.

We regret the delay in responding to your request and any inconveniences it may have caused you. This was due to limited manpower and resources in which we accrued a substantial backlog of 300+ FOIA request case files. During our efforts to reduce this backlog, your request case file recently came to the forefront of that queue for processing.

In an effort to assist with your request a search of this Headquarters' files, specifically those located at the Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Marine Corps Requirements Oversight Council was conducted. As a result of that search, two documents were identified as being responsive to your request. However, our review of the documents revealed that both documents are exempt under the executive privilege of the FOIA, [5 USC 5552(b)(5), as amended], because they are decision memoranda and they contain full subjective discussions of opinions and/or advice and recommendations offered within the agency that, if disclosed, would chill the free and candid exchange of advice and recommendations during the decision making process.

In view of the above you may consider this an adverse determination that may be appealed in writing to the Judge Advocate General (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include a copy of your initial FOIA request, a copy of this response, and a statement indicating why you believe your appeal should be granted. I recommend that your letter and the envelope both bear the notation "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

We have categorized you as an "other requester" for the purpose of assessing FOIA processing fees. As such, you are entitled to two hours of search and 100 pages of duplication free of charge but are responsible for the payment of any fees beyond that. In this instance, the applicable fees did not exceed your free entitlement so there is no charge for processing this request.

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Questions concerning this action should be directed to the Ms. Mary Malone of my staff at (571) 256-8633 or (703) 614-4008. Please refer to the subject file number above when corresponding with our office on this matter. I am the official responsible for this determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. White', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

LADONNE L. WHITE  
Deputy Head, FOIA/PA Section (ARSF)  
Security Programs & Info Mgmt Branch  
Administration & Resource Mgmt Division